

“The Repentance Wrought by the Spirit”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:16, 18, 1-2, 5, 15, 20**

Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- / cy on me,*
 for I am desolate and af- / flicted.
 Look on my affliction / and my pain,*
 and forgive / all my sins.
 To You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; Let me not / be ashamed.
 You are the God of my sal- / vation;*
 on You I wait / all the day.
 My eyes are ever / toward the Lord,*
 for He shall pluck my feet out / of the net.
 Keep my soul, and de- / liver me;*
 let me not be ashamed, for I put my / trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Micah 7:18**
 “[God] does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, the Protector of all that trust in You, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us Your mercy that, You being our Ruler and Guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**
 TLH 324, LSB 609
 Erdmann Neumeister



1. Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Oh, may all this saying ponder
 Who in sin's delusions live
 And from God and heaven wander!
 Here is hope for all who grieve--
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

2. We deserve but grief and shame,
 Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
 Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.
 Here their ills have perfect healing
 Who with humble hearts believe--
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

4. Come, ye sinners, one and all,
 Come, accept His invitation;
 Come, obey His gracious call,
 Come and take His free salvation!
 Firmly in these words believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter Passion:
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
 I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
 Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
 under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
 and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the
 dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
 the right hand of God, the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
 Christian church, the communion of
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and the life
 everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Our Father, who art in
 heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily
 bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who
 trespass against us;
 and lead us not into
 temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and
 the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of June 20-26, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Repentance Wrought by the Spirit

God is not tricked into loving us. Jesus did not die on the cross to trick God into being nice to us. God's mercy is not given begrudgingly. No, the Lord delights in showing mercy. He loves to forgive sins. The angels rejoice with all of heaven in one sinner's repentance. The texts this week beautifully put before us the tender love and compassion of our God who is love, whose mercy never ends, whose kindness knows no bound, and whose joy is our salvation. As hard as it is for us sinners to believe it, God likes to forgive our sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-10: The 1%

Jesus is not content with the 99 sheep, the 99 safe, repentant sheep. He leaves them in the wilderness to go looking for the one, the lost one: you. We, like sheep, have gone astray, but Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has tracked us down, picked up, cleaned us off, carried us home, and the angels rejoice. This Good Shepherd has laid down His life for us, for you, and has gathered us into His holy flock. *O Good Shepherd, carry us on Your gracious shoulders to our everlasting home. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, third part (GIMEL v17-24): The Godly are in Conversation with the Word of God

Consider the beautiful contrast in verses 23 and 24. The princes, those who rule in this world, sit together to plot and scheme against the righteous. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are about the overthrow of the Lord's institutions. In contrast to this, the righteous sit with the Lord's Word, with the prophets and apostles. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are filled with the Lord's wisdom. "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors." God's Word is our friend, and our joyful meditation on the Lord's Word brings a wisdom that leads to life. *O LORD, open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things from Your law. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-11: He Cares for You

This world is tough. This life is full of trouble and cares. Jesus warned us, "in this world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33). What, then, do we do with all these "cares"? Peter has a very specific, simple, but precariously difficult instruction: "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." Like the disciples who cast their garments over the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem, we cast our cares on God. This happens in our prayers (see Philippians 4:6-7), which often sound like this: *O Lord, You have forbidden worry, but You have given me so much to worry about, so You are going to have to take care of all of this. Help me, deliver me, comfort me, and give me wisdom to bless You in the midst of all this trouble. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Micah 7:18-20: God's Temporary Anger and Eternal Mercy

Micah ends with a doxology to the astonishing grace and boundless mercy of the Lord. Who ever heard of a God like our God who forgives sins? His anger is only for a moment, but His kindness is eternal because He likes to be gracious to us. ("He delights in mercy.") He laughs as He throws our sins overboard, and this, even as we remember that our forgiveness had a tremendous cost. The kindness of God and the forgiveness of sins was won by the bitter suffering and death of Jesus, but willingly He suffered for the joy of having mercy on us sinners. God be praised! *Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity? You give us truth and mercy. You delight in showing mercy, and I too delight in Your mercy. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80: How to Know the Mind of God

How does God think of you? We know how He should think. We know our sins, at least some of them. We know our failures. We know the commandments we have broken. We know guilt and shame. We feel our own sin boiling inside and we feel the sins of others like a film of dust in our eyes and on our lips. We know that God should be angry with us. But is He? Zacharias sings of John the Baptist who would give people knowledge of God "by the forgiveness of their sins" (1:77). God is filled with "tender mercy" (1:78) toward you, a compassionate kindness, a heart-felt undeserved kindness. God knows us as His own blood-bought, blood-washed children. He loves you. *Blessed are You, Lord God. You have visited and redeemed Your people. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-18: The God who Converts

Our God converts people. We should remember this and rejoice. Saul, the Christian-killer, the Sanhedrin-authorized terrorist, the most dangerous and wretched evil man living, was converted. From a human perspective, from the perspective of Ananias and the Christians in Damascus hiding from Saul for fear of their lives, Saul is the last person you expect to confess Christ and be baptized. But Saul became a Christian, and a pastor, and the last of the apostles who bears the name of Jesus to the Gentile world. Our God converts people. We all know people who are far from the kingdom of God, who curse the God they deny exists, who have left the church. This is our comfort and confidence: God converts. *O Lord, convert the unbelievers to Your name. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25: Our Trouble and Our Sin

Psalm 25 is a prayer for help in the midst of all kinds of trouble. David knows desolation, affliction (v.16), trouble in the heart, distresses (17), pain (18), and enemies (19). But in the midst of all this, David knows his biggest problem is sin. He prays, "Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions" (7), "Pardon my iniquity, for it is great" (11), "Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins" (18). In the middle of all the wrong, terrible, and broken things in the world, in us and around us, we rejoice that the Lord has declared us to be righteous, forgiven our sin, and truly taken away all our guilt. *Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old. Amen.*

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